



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE MEETING** **JULY 25, 2007**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
Rita Hall  
John A. Hammargren  
Carl E. Moore

Commissioner Moore joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

##### **Others Present**

Elizabeth Howard, Dept. of Children and Family Services  
Candace Rhue, L.A. County Auditor-Controller  
Frank Imperial, Dept. of Probation  
Timothy Braden, Internal Services Dept.  
Peter Zertuche, Community Care Licensing Division  
Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.  
Lieutenant Debra A. Jones, L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.  
Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer  
Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services  
Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff  
Garen Khachian, Commission Services Staff

## **INTRODUCTION OF DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBIN GUERRERO**

Chair Montaña, introduced Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer for the Board of Supervisors' Executive Office.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chair Montaña welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

### **Sheriff's Department:**

Captain Warren Asmus reported the following:

- The Courthouses have a budget deficit of \$16.1 million and are not receiving any help from Sacramento.
- The plan is to close three to four lockups and transfer the inmates to other facilities. Sheriff's responded by asking for additional personnel to deal with the transferring of inmates.
- The number one goal for the Sheriff's Department is the safety of inmates and the deputies.
- The sally port in the Eastlake facility is functioning properly.

Lieutenant Debra Jones, Sheriff's Department, distributed the following report:

- "Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sybil Brand Commission Inmate on Inmate and Inmate on Staff Assault," July 2007 Report.

**Department of Mental Health:** No representative present.

### **Internal Services Department:**

Mr. Timothy Braden reported the following:

- ISD received 13,332 trouble calls from May to July of 2007. ISD has corrected the problems.
- ISD received 8,261, planned maintenance calls. Some examples of planned maintenance calls are oil and filter changes on County vehicles.
- ISD received 452 service request calls. Examples of service requests calls are removal of light bulbs and fixing restrooms in accordance with ADA standards.

- ISD is in the process of developing a Board letter in conjunction with Probation and the Department of Children and Family Services to create a partnership with the Building Trade Union Council to help the adults leaving out-of-home care to secure employment.
- The ISD Youth Mentoring Program had 62 graduates. Over 30 of the graduates have secured jobs with the County of Los Angeles.
- Mr. Braden will arrange for Velma Perdomo or Linda Estrada to speak to the Sybil Brand Commission at the next Sybil Brand Commission Quarterly meeting on 10/24/07 regarding the Youth Mentoring Program.

**Probation Department:**

Mr. Frank Imperial reported the following:

- The Shamrock Cottage Group homes will be closing.
- The Guiding Light Group home has a sexual harassment case being investigated.
- In the past month there have been 36 cases of AWOLs from Probation Camps.
- The San Gabriel Children's Center has been removed from the "Do Not Refer" list.

**Department of Children and Family Services:**

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following:

- The number of group homes contracted with DCFS has dwindled from 150 to 128, because stricter guidelines and requirements are included in the contract; DCFS is holding Group Homes accountable for their actions.
- The Department has moved away from residential care particularly for younger children (ages 12 and under) which caused some group homes to close. The closed group homes have been put on termination hold. Reinstating of termination hold group homes requires a shorter application.
- The Resource Utilization Division within DCFS is responsible for placing difficult children in appropriate homes. The Services Division has the responsibility of placing adults leaving foster and group homes into transitional housing.

**Department of Auditor-Controller:**

Ms. Candace Rhue reported the following:

- Auditor Controller investigations have not led to any group home closures in 2007.
- The M and R Group Home in Walnut was closed.
- She will report back to the Sybil Brand Commission during the August Business Meeting on why the Peanuts Home was closed.
- The data base in the Child Welfare System is utilized to fill vacancies in group homes. Social workers have preferences of group homes they place children in due to their logistic location.

**Community Care License (CCL):**

Mr. Peter Zerteche reported the following:

- The AB 458 Foster Care Anti-Discrimination Act of 2003 explicitly prohibits discrimination and harassment against foster children and care givers on the basis of actual perceived race, ethnic identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability or HIV status. The State is requiring all group homes follow these guide lines.
- A task force has been formed to end homophobia; this group includes juvenile court judges, attorneys, social workers, service providers and youth activists to ensure the safety and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youths in Los Angeles County Dependency and Youth Probation Systems.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the various department representatives for their participation and reports.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 18, 2007 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 18th, 2007 were approved, with the following change:

- On page 3, Rancho San Antonio/Catholic Charities, under **Area of Concern:** from The facility needs funds to increase their mental health services to *The facility is waiting for funding from Department of Mental Health to be approved.*

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Cannella spoke at the Audit Committee meeting on July 19, 2007. The Audit Committee unanimously approved continuing this item until the Chief Executive Office (CEO) has completed its analysis/review of all Los Angeles County Commissions.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montaño shared a reference manual titled "Reference Manual for the Department of Children & Family Services Group Home Providers", developed by The Department of Children and Family Services and a book on the "Legal Rights of Teens In Out-of-Home Care." The information manuals are outdated and the Commission asked staff to check for new versions.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,638.50.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services gave the following to report:

- The Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship presentations will be held on July 31, 2007 during the Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The Sybil Brand Commission meeting for August 1, 2007 will be cancelled.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were none.

### **FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JULY 18, TO JULY 24, 2007**

#### **Fred Jefferson Memorial Home – 24, #3 – Commissioners Bacio and Hall**

The facility was visited on July 19, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Bedrooms need to be cleaned, all 3 fire extinguishers need to be reinspected; stove needs cleaning; back bedroom release bar needs to be closed.

#### **Children Are Our Future Harvey House – 9, #4 – Commissioner Stathatos**

The facility was visited on July 19, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition.

#### **Children Are Our Future Chatsworth House – 8, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos**

The facility was visited on July 19, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition, well kept, attractive and in a nice neighborhood.

**Sand Hill Group Home – 56, #4 – Commissioner Montaño**

The facility was visited on July 23, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Needs life books.

**Children Are Our Future Tom Browning House – 10, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos**

The facility was visited on July 24, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition; and will be relocating in the same neighborhood in September 2007.

**Children Are Our Future West Hills – 8, #3 – Commissioner Stathatos**

The facility was visited on July 24, 2007, and found to be in excellent condition.

**Fred Jefferson Memorial Home – 24, #2 – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore**

The facility was visited on July 24, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Needs to update the emergency drill; house rules need to be posted; the vehicle needs to be inspected since it was in the repair shop.

**San Gabriel Children's Center – 55, #4 – Commissioner Montaño**

The facility was visited on July 24, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Needs to improve linen inventory; dishes and utensils needed.

Commissioner Moore reviewed the following Audit Reports with the Commission:

The Teen's Happy Group Home – 61, #1 and Sand Hill Group Home – 56, #4, Audit reports dated July 5, 2007 revealed all areas of concerns have been corrected.

**NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montaño adjourned the meeting at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice A. Davis*  
Commission Services Division